

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical connector assembly for mating with a complementary second connector in a mating direction, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a terminal module mounted on the housing for movement relative thereto between a projecting position and a retracted position and including,
 - a dielectrical module body having a front mating end which projects from said housing and a rear mounting end which mounts the terminal module in the housing for movement between said positions, and
 - a plurality of conductive terminals mounted on the module body and including front flexible contact ends projecting from the front mating end of the module body for engaging appropriate terminal contacts of said complementary second connector and rear terminating ends secured to the module body,
 - whereby when the second connector is mated with the connector assembly the contacts of the second connector engage the front flexible contact ends of the terminals and move the terminal module from its projecting position to its retracted position.
2. The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein each of said conductive terminals includes a base fixed in the dielectric module body and the front flexible contact end of the terminal is forwardly of the base.
3. The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said front flexible contact end of each terminal is joined to the base by a flexible spring arm cantilevered forwardly of the base.
4. The electrical connector assembly of claim 3 wherein said front flexible contact end of each terminal has a convex configuration and presents a rounded contact surface for abutting engagement by the contacts of the second connector.

5. The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said rear terminating end of each terminal comprises a termination arm projecting rearwardly of the base and having a conductor termination portion at the distal end thereof.

6. The electrical connector assembly of claim 1, including biasing means for biasing the terminal module toward its projecting position.

7. The electrical connector assembly of claim 6 wherein said biasing means comprises a coil spring sandwiched between the module body and a portion of the housing.

8. The electrical connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said housing has an interior compartment within which the coil spring is disposed.

9. The electrical connector assembly of claim 6 wherein said module body is elongated in a direction generally transverse to said mating direction to define opposite ends of the body, and including a pair of biasing springs sandwiched between the opposite ends of the body and portions of the housing.

10. The electrical connector assembly of claim 9 wherein said housing has a pair of interior compartments near said opposite ends of the module body within which the biasing springs are located.

11. The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said dielectric module body includes a plurality of open grooves within which said terminals are disposed.

12. An electrical connector assembly for mating with a complementary second connector in a mating direction, comprising:

a housing;

a terminal module mounted on the housing for movement relative thereto between a projecting position and a retracted position and including,

a dielectrical module body having a front mating end which projects from said housing and a rear mounting end which mounts the terminal module in the housing for movement between said positions, and

a plurality of conductive terminals mounted on the module body, each terminal including

a base rigidly fixing the terminal in the dielectric module body,

a flexible spring arm cantilevered forwardly of the base, and

a front flexible contact end of the terminal joined to a front end of the flexible spring arm and projecting from the front mating end of the module body for engaging appropriate terminal contacts of said complementary second connector; and

spring means for biasing the terminal module toward its projecting position,

whereby when the second connector is mated with the connector assembly the contacts of the second connector engage the front flexible contact ends of the terminals and move the terminal module from its projecting position to its retracted position.

13. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said front flexible contact end of each terminal has a convex configuration and presents a rounded contact surface for abutting engagement by the contacts of the second connector.

14. The electrical connector assembly of claim 13 wherein said rear terminating end of each terminal comprises a termination arm projecting rearwardly of the base and having a conductor termination portion at the distal end thereof.

15. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said spring means comprises a coil spring located within an interior compartment of the housing and sandwiched between a portion of the housing and the module body.

16. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said module body is elongated in a direction generally transverse to said mating direction to define opposite ends of the body, and including a pair of biasing springs sandwiched between the opposite ends of the body and portions of the housing.

17. The electrical connector assembly of claim 16 wherein said housing has a pair of interior compartments near said opposite ends of the module body within which the biasing springs are located.

18. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said dielectric module body includes a plurality of open grooves within which said terminals are disposed.